

**Listing of Claims**

- 1.-2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 23 wherein the hashing algorithm is a one-way hashing algorithm.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 23 wherein the first application identifier is a 20-byte hash value.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 23 wherein the graphical icon data is obtained from an application binary.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 23 wherein the graphical icon data is obtained from an icon file.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 23 further comprising comparing the first application identifier with a list of application identifiers to determine an attribute of the software application.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the attribute comprises a parental control rating for the software application.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 23 wherein ~~a database receives the database query, and wherein the database returns results indicating whether~~ the globally unique identifier indicates that metadata relating to the software application can be obtained from a metadata service.
- 11.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 23 wherein the first application identifier is a unique fixed-length string.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 23 further comprising storing a relation between the first application identifier and the globally unique identifier in a data file ~~along with one or more other application identifiers for other software applications.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 23 wherein the distinct application data further comprises registry data.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 23 wherein the software application is a gaming-related software application.

19.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, a method of querying a database for information pertaining to a software application installed on the computer system, the software application comprising a plurality of files on the computer system, the files comprising at least an executable file and graphical icon data, the executable file having a name, the method comprising:

~~obtaining~~ generating [[an]] a first application identifier for a software application, where ~~wherein generating the first application identifier comprises the application identifier is~~ generating a hash value ~~generated by~~ with a hashing algorithm, ~~the hash value based on~~ applied to distinct application ~~binary~~ data comprising a combination of at least the graphical icon data of the software application and the name of the executable file for the software application;

sending a query for a globally unique identifier for the software application to the database, the query comprising ~~information of the~~ first application identifier;

receiving a response to the query from the database, wherein the response comprises the globally unique identifier for the software application, and wherein the globally unique identifier differs from the first identifier; and

~~utilizing the application identifier for the software application to displaying~~ displaying information from the response in a graphical user interface.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the database comprises a list of gaming-related software applications, and wherein the response to the query comprises an indicator of whether the software application is a gaming-related software application.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the query to the database comprises a request for metadata relating to the software application, and wherein the response to the query comprises metadata relating to the software application.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the query to the database comprises a request for parental control information relating to the software application, and wherein the response to the query comprises parental control information relating to the software application.

27. (Canceled)

28. (New) In a computer system, a method comprising:  
obtaining application data specific to a software application on the computer system, the application data comprising icon data;  
calculating a first value for the application based at least in part on the icon data, wherein calculating the first value comprises applying a hashing algorithm to at least the icon data, and wherein the first value is a hash value;  
sending the first value in a database query to a database;  
in response to the database query, receiving one or more responses from the database;  
obtaining from the one or more responses a globally unique identifier for the application, wherein the globally unique identifier differs from the first value;

sending the globally unique identifier in a metadata request; and  
in response to the metadata request, receiving metadata associated with the application.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the globally unique identifier is sent in the metadata request sent to a games metadata service, and wherein the metadata is received from the games metadata service.

30. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein obtaining the application data comprises selecting one or more graphical icons from a set of plural graphical icons having different sizes and resolutions.

31. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the hashing algorithm is a one-way hashing algorithm.

32. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of the one or more responses indicates that a match for the first value was found in the database.

33. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the application data further comprises a file name of an application executable, and wherein calculating the first value is further based on the file name of the application executable.

34. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising:  
sending a shortcut link to the database;  
wherein the one or more responses comprise a list of possible matches for the shortcut link in the database.

35. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising:  
obtaining from the one or more responses metadata relating to the software application.

36. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising:

after receiving the one or more responses, displaying a visual indicator of the software application along with visual indicators of other software applications in a graphical user interface.

37. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions operable to cause a computer to perform a method of querying a database for information pertaining to a software application installed on a computer system, the method comprising:

generating a first application identifier for the software application, the software application comprising a plurality of files on the computer system, the files comprising at least an executable file and graphical icon data, the executable file having a name, wherein generating the first application identifier comprises generating a hash value with a hashing algorithm applied to a subset of the graphical icon data of the software application and the name of the executable file for the software application;

sending a query for a globally unique identifier for the software application to the database, the query comprising the first application identifier;

receiving a response to the query from the database, wherein the response comprises an indication of whether the software application is of a particular application type and the globally unique identifier for the software application, and wherein the globally unique identifier differs from the first identifier;

sending a metadata request to a metadata service, the query comprising the globally unique identifier;

receiving metadata for the software application in response to the metadata request; and

displaying information from the response to the query from the database along with the metadata received in response to the metadata request in a window of a graphical user interface along with information for one or more other software applications of the particular application type;

wherein the application type is game, and wherein the metadata service is a games metadata service.